

Julio Guridy, President
Ray O'Connell, Vice President
Joseph Davis
Jeanette Eichenwald
Daryl Hendricks
Cynthia Y. Mota
Peter Schweyer



Allentown City Council
435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101
AllentownPa.Gov

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**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
August 20, 2014
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

COUNCIL MEETING – 7:00 PM

1. Invocation: Rabbi Seth Phillips, Keneseth Israel

2. Pledge to the Flag

3. Roll Call: Davis, Eichenwald, Guridy, Hendricks, O'Connell, Schweyer
Dale Wiles represented for the Solicitor's Office

4. Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Lou Hershman stated that under the Right to Know Law he requested from the Allentown Neighborhood Improvement Zone Authority that he heard there are city employees working for the Authority and there are costs involved. Are they reimbursing the city? There are no checks and balances.

Mr. Dennis Pearson, 942 E. Tilghman Street, stated that he confirmed that several things have been done. We received a letter from Mayor Pawlowski that we may use Irving Park for lights. The issue on Graham Street has been resolved. The wire that was there for over a year has been removed. The unresolved issue is 404 N. Jerome Street. He invited the Mayor and his staff to come to the area to see for themselves. There is an issue on Hanover Avenue from the Source Hookah Club making too much noise. As the president of the Steel Workers Archives, the organization has been sponsoring Steel Walker tours.

Mr. Art Bullifane – 2030 W. Allen (West Flood Neighborhood Watch), stated that he and his neighbors have seen a lot of work that has been done. He spoke to Mr. Messinger and he told me that work is being done on a small basis. The last several rains have not created the level of panic that we would ordinarily have. He is looking for a report from the city on the West End Flood Project. He has yet to get that report and asked the status.

Mr. Fran Dougherty stated that we met with the engineers and contractors to coordinate the analysis with the report. Craig, the Public Works Director, reviewed all the work that had been done. The report is being finalized with the changes we had. We expect to explain what the report means and explain the next steps in terms of addressing longer term infrastructure needs.

Mr. Bullifane asked for a timeline for the project. When will this report be completed?

Mr. Dougherty stated again, depending on the availability of money, other things, and how it is prioritized. He would hope soon. There are very little changes to report outside of wording. He stated that he can commit to next month.

Mr. Guridy asked Mr. Dougherty if the public meeting will be here or somewhere in the west end.

Mr. Dougherty stated that they are amenable to discussing it in front of the Committee of the Whole or the Public Works Committee.

Mr. Guridy stated consider the West End Youth Center where we had some Council meetings.

Mr. Dougherty stated if you want to take it on the road. That is fine.

Mr. Ernie Atiyeh stated with the recent tragedy at the Ritz Barbeque, we have a lot of property in the City of Allentown where it is an accident waiting to happen. He doesn't know what City Council can do to get some posts outside of these different locations and legislation for new construction.

Mr. Kenneth Heffentrager, 733 N. 11th Street – Allentown Tenants Association, thanked Council for the October 1st meeting. 418 W Allen Street had a partial collapse of the wall. We, ourselves spent several hours on the phone with Aqua Reality and they don't care. There is a lot of weight on the roof. We have been critical of the administration and City Council. At no time have we ever criticized the city employees. The employees of the city are fantastic.

Ms. Delarosa, 1028 Hanover Avenue, stated that the Source Hookah Lounge opened a year ago and since then we had so many problems because of that business. Upon leaving they are loud. It is not the appropriate location for that type of business. It has affected my household which is no longer my refuge. The only day they are closed is Monday evening.

Mr. Guridy stated that there are two Hookah Lounges on Hanover Avenue. Which one is it?

Ms. Delarosa stated that the legal address is 1006 - 1026 Hanover Avenue.

Mr. Dougherty stated that he knows that it has been a topic of discussion among the various agencies in the city. One Sweep ticket was issued back in May. We continue to monitor and we need to be more aggressive. We will provide a record to City Council on what has been done to date. We are certainly empathic here.

Mr. Guridy stated that there is something being done through the administration.

Ms. Saurman stated that a Sweep Ticket was issued for amplified sound by the Police Department. This is a concern brought to our attention.

Mr. Hendricks stated that in the meantime you may want to talk to Captain Alsleben.

Ms. Delarosa stated that she has and this has been going on for a year. Their attorney sent us a letter because we installed cameras.

Mr. Dougherty stated that they also have the Zoning Office for any applicable zoning violations.

Mr. Dan Mest stated two weeks ago Jeanette had a committee meeting and it was discussed about the ambulance situation that will come out of the new hockey arena. Who is going to supply the ambulances from hockey arena to the hospitals.

Mr. Dougherty stated that an answer was provided to City Council in writing.

Mr. O'Connell stated that the medical staff in the arena will take care of any problems in the arena. Just like any other venue in Allentown. If an ambulance, a fire truck, or a police officer is needed they will be called to the arena to take care the transport to the hospital.

Mr. Mest asked if one will be on standby like the east side baseball arena. He wanted to know why at least one ambulance won't be standing by.

Mr. Hendricks stated that Lehigh Valley Hospital staff will be inside the arena. To put a crew there, it will cost the city money.

Mr. Mest asked if the city would get reimbursed.

Mr. Guridy stated for the east side we do.

Mr. Dougherty stated that we acknowledge in our statement to City Council why we were disappointed that we were not invited to the site as we do for the IronPigs. We reluctantly conceded why Lehigh Valley Hospital is staffing it because they have a facility there, and a tenant there. We understood the business case to begin with.

Ms. Eichenwald asked if the city has a standard policy when it has to be an on-site EMS provided by the city to be reimbursed for all occasions.

Mr. Dougherty stated that there is an Ordinance on the books about the Right of First Refusal and they have to use city EMS. That Ordinance according to the Solicitor's office is not applicable to this situation.

Ms. Eichenwald asked why is it not applicable.

Mr. Dougherty stated that it is not a city-sponsored event and other criterias.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that she is interested in seeing the verbiage of the policy and understanding why there was an exception made in this case.

Mr. Mest stated that it was mentioned at the committee meeting that LVH has two ambulances. When it comes to city services, we are paying for city services out of our tax dollars. He asked if they had hospital beds.

5. Approval of Minutes: August 6, 2014

Minutes approved by Common Consent

6. Old Business

None

7. Communications

None

8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Committee of the Whole: Pursuant to discussion at the last Council Meeting from the Administration and Council, a Committee of the Whole has been scheduled for October 1 at 6 PM to discuss procedures

relating to housing, blighted property and Sweep policies. The Committees have their budget review process meetings set up. We are coming into budget season and capital projects and the finance committee will have more to say about that.

Budget and Finance: Chairperson Schweyer

The committee has not met since the last Council meeting; our next meeting is scheduled for August 27th at 5:30 PM; a number of things will be discussed including the EMS question. On September 24th the committee will meet to review the budget priorities, goals and objectives, successes and failures, capital projects and any personnel or organizational changes being considered for the next fiscal year in the Finance Department.

Public Safety: Chairperson Eichenwald

In addition to our participation in the August 27th meeting, the next Committee meeting will be held September 17 and the purpose of that meeting is a pre-budgetary meeting. There has not yet been a confirmation that the Police Chief, the Fire Chief and the EMS Chief will attend. Pursuant to their attendance the meeting will be held on September 17th.

Community and Economic Development: Chairperson Davis

The Committee has not met since the last Council meeting; the next scheduled meeting is August 25th at 6 PM, following the Public Works meeting; on September 10th we will do our budget preview with highlights of the past year, priorities for next year and any personnel changes.

Parks and Recreation: Chairperson Mota

The next meeting is scheduled for September 3rd at 6 PM and it will be budget priorities, goals and objectives, successes and failures, capital projects.

Public Works: Chairperson O'Connell

The next meeting is Monday, August 25th with two items to discuss; We will go through the budget review process, capital projects, successes and failures. We met this evening at 6:45 and have one item Bill 28 – Basin Street funds.

Human Resources, Administration and Appointments: Chairperson Hendricks

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; a future meeting is scheduled for September 3rd, from 5:30 to 6 PM to review the budget priorities, goals and objectives, successes and failures, capital projects and any personnel or organizational changes being considered for the ensuing fiscal year.

Rules, Chambers, Intergovernmental Relations and Strategy: Chairperson Gurdy

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting. There are no future meetings scheduled as of this time.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Davis stated that yesterday we had a meeting of the Aggregate Pension Board (Police, Fire, and O&E). We reviewed the Investment Performance through June 30th and we also did a search for an International Global Manager. That decision will be made sometime in the near future.

Ms. Koval stated that the next meeting is November 18th of the Pension Board.

Controller's Report

Ms. Mary Ellen Koval stated that in addition to the Budget and Finance Committee meeting that will be held next Wednesday, August 27th the four final reports from our interns will be presented on Business Privilege Tax, Tax Certs, extra jobs in the Police Department and Workers Compensation.

Mr. Guridy asked were there any comments or questions for Ms. Koval.

Managing Director's Reports

Mr. Fran Dougherty stated that in yet another example of the enhancements of the quality of life issues and initiatives, Ann is here to speak to and introduce some of the changes that are taking place with the Clean Team with their scheduling and their look.

Ms. Ann Saurman stated that we wanted to bring to your attention some of the updates with the Clean Team. The Clean Team is part of the Allentown Rescue Mission and provides a valuable service to the City of Allentown and provide valuable service to the formerly Homeless Men going through their program. Through the Solid Waste Fund there are two contracts with the Clean Team: one is for the maintenance service for the central business district which is from 4th – 12th and Linden to Walnut Streets. Those duties entail schedule litter pickup of trash and debris and reporting problems to the various city bureaus, power washing the sidewalks on Hamilton from 6th – 10th. Assistance to setup special events. Also, cleanups during the events and teardown. Also, snow removal for sidewalk, intersection, access to the parking meters, and the arts park walkway. The second contract is for litter pickup or special cleanups. It is a biweekly schedule from 4th – 12th from Linden to Tilghman Street and any special projects: illegal dump site cleanups.

Mr. Tom Gibson, president of the Allentown Rescue Mission, thanked City Council, Ann, and the Mayor for providing the Rescue Mission and the Clean Team with an opportunity to enter into a contract with the city. It has been about six years. The Mayor showed a lot of faith and trust and a little bit of risk about this. We took it on and we have this contract with city about six years. We provide an excellent service to the city and we want to continue doing that. These guys that serve on the Clean Team has come through other parts of our program and then they serve on the Clean Team and get the skills that are necessary to go back out in the community and take jobs. We had about 125 men who have left the Clean Team and productive citizens in this area and contributing members of this society. You are helping to defend the issue of homeless in the Allentown area.

Mike thanked Tom, City Council, and Ann, and stated that the face of Allentown is changing. In the recent discussion with the mayor the Clean Team has decided to make the following changes to the Hamilton District Downtown Project. Start time changed from 8:00 AM to 6:00 AM effective the 11th of this month. An additional worker with a sidewalk vacuum in the streets of Hamilton Street, three days a week. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Dave Strickland has been running that machine for the last two weeks. They transitioned from t-shirts to collared shirts. We also transitioned from blue jeans to khaki pants. He introduced Dave and John that are members of the Clean Team. They decided to provide extra cleanup after the first three major events coming in September at the PPL Center Arena: The Eagles, Cher, and Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers.

Mr. O'Connell asked how many members do you have on the Clean Team.

Mike stated that our payroll is going to top 40 by next week.

Mr. O'Connell congratulated the Clean Team.

Mr. Gibson stated that they are taking care of one of City Center's Parking Garages.

Mr. O'Connell stated that the Rescue Mission does a wonderful job.

9. APPOINTMENTS:

None

10. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE:

Bill 28 Basin Street Funds

Amending the 2014 Capital Fund Budget, increasing the unappropriated balance in the amount of One Hundred and Sixty-Five Thousand dollars, (\$165,000) which is 100% reimbursable through federal funding for the Basin Street Project.

Mr. O'Connell stated that after the bridge went out we needed a little bit more money. The original amount was \$575,000 and now we are getting another \$165,000 bringing us to \$740,000 and is 100 percent reimbursable and we passed it favorably, 3 – 0 to the entire Council.

Mr. Guridy asked when is the project going to start.

Mr. O'Connell stated that the timeline is late fall.

Mr. Dougherty stated late fall. He will get confirmation for Council.

Mr. Schweyer asked when we talked about safety improvements when we first initially passed this there was some concern about the \$500,000 plus wasn't enough to add or increase safety. With these additional appropriation, what kind of safety measures. Before they were talking about repaving and slowing the speeds down. Are we looking for barriers or barricades?

Mr. O'Connell stated that he doesn't know the specifics, but know the bids went out and they came higher than we thought and the feds said they were going to give an additional \$165,000. The concrete barrier issue was a pet peeve of mine. This is the first step to improve the safety.

Mr. Dougherty stated that the scope of work did not change.

Mr. Guridy asked any comments from the public.

ORDINANCE PASSED, 6 – 0

11. RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE:

None

12. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

Bill 29 Traffic Signal Transfer

Referred to Public Works

Amending the 2014 Capital Project Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Eight Hundred and Sixty Four Thousand Two Hundred and Forty Dollars (\$864,240) from four Capital Projects to the Downtown Traffic Improvements Project upgrading traffic signals and installing adaptive systems in the downtown area.

Mr. Guridy asked any comments from the public.

Mr. O'Connell stated that we will talk about it on August 25th and also talk about the Compliance and Review Board.

13. RESOLUTIONS FOR INTRODUCTION

R 41 619-621 Hamilton Resolution

Authorizes Conveyance of Deed of Easement along walkway between 619 & 621 Hamilton St.

Mr. O'Connell stated that he would like to vote on R41.

Mr. Davis stated that Mr. Hoegg is here to explain the administration's side.

Mr. Don Hoegg stated that it will maintain the walkway from Hamilton and Court Street in between the Sovereign Building and the adjacent building to the west. Currently, there are easements from the Sovereign Building opening up to the sidewalk. There is a petition from a contractor to open a doorway on the west side of that walkway. It would be simply a doorway swinging onto the sidewalk. Code would be met and there are property obstructions placed. The door does not open up to any pathways to pedestrians. The city recommends it to be done for further enhancements and development of the building.

Mr. Guridy asked is that where the restaurant is going to come.

Mr. Hoegg stated that he doesn't know the use.

Mr. Davis stated that he thought it was a nail salon. He has a business that in order to be out of the building he has to walk through these office buildings. This new doorway which opens up to the existing walkway would allow him to develop the back part of the building where people would have an entrance and exit to get in and out of that business. They will put planters there or something so that you don't just open up the door into somebody walking by.

Mr. Guridy asked is this the Sovereign building.

Mr. Davis stated no. It is the building across the walkway from it. It is 721.

Mr. Hoegg stated that it is opposite side from the Sovereign building. The western building on the walkway.

Mr. Davis stated that it is a wide walkway.

Mr. Dougherty stated that it is simply to allow a door to open.

Mr. Guridy asked any comments from the public.

RESOLUTION PASSED, 6 - 0

R42 HARB Case Certificates of Appropriateness

Certificates of Appropriateness for work at 605 Allen Street and 1101 Linden Street

Mr. Guridy asked any comments from the dais.

RESOLUTION PASSED, 6 – 0

14. NEW BUSINESS

None

15. GOOD AND WELFARE

None

16. ADJOURNED: 7:47 PM

Council meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month beginning at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers. For copies of the agenda or meeting announcements, please visit our website at www.allentownpa.gov or contact the Clerk at Michael.Hanlon@allentownpa.gov to receive an email notice of the meetings.